

October 26, 2009

The Honorable Phil Andrews  
President, Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject: I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study

Dear Mr. Andrews:

This letter provides the Mayor and Council of Rockville's position regarding the highway and transit improvements of the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study. The City supports Alternative 7A with High Occupancy Toll lanes for the I-270/US 15 improvements and the Light Rail Transit option for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). However, if this option does not qualify for federal transit funding due to adequate cost-effectiveness, then the City would support the Bus Rapid Transit option.

The Mayor and Council believes Alternative 7 with HOT lanes would provide more road capacity than Alternative 6 and significant congestion relief while providing incentives to carpool, and a funding source for the construction. In regards to the CCT, the Mayor and Council view the light rail transit as the more favorable option for potential riders.

Montgomery County's 2008 joint priority letter lists the CCT as a project of regional significance that should be funded. This project has become even more significant as Montgomery County considers the Gaithersburg West Master Plan. The CCT will help relieve congestion generated by thousands of new jobs and housing units planned in the area, which will lower pressure on Rockville intersections near the Gaithersburg West Master Planning area.

The Mayor and Council are concerned that the highway improvements that are tied to the CCT will hinder the ability of the CCT to move forward in a timely manner. These highway improvements account for 83 to 90 percent of the total cost of the entire project. Therefore, the Mayor and Council feel that the CCT portion should be constructed prior to road improvements to encourage mass transit use before more road capacity opens. If highway improvements could not be built, the Mayor and Council strongly recommend that the CCT be constructed anyway to help reduce traffic.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Hoffman  
Mayor